

IFW 3731

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert D. Torgerson et al.
Serial No.: 10/086,286
Confirmation No.: 3327
Filed: March 1, 2002
For: COLLAGEN FABRICS
Examiner: Vy Q. Bui
Art Unit: 3731

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Signature

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents:

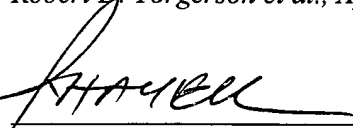
- Interview Summary
- Return Receipt Postcard

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room and/or the Application Branch is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (617) 646-8000, Boston, Massachusetts.

A check is not enclosed. If a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 23/2825. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert D. Torgerson et al., Applicants

By:


Roque El-Hayek, Reg. No.: 55,151
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Sir:

Please enter the following interview summary by the Applicant.

On May 19, 2005, Applicant's representatives and Mr. Stephen Eldridge, an inventor of the above-identified application, conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss the rejection of the pending claims in the instant application.

The Examiner asserted that U.S. Patent 5,332,475 ("Mechanic '475") teaches suspending collagen in a buffer medium such as water. The Examiner's interpretation of Mechanic '475 is that water can be a buffer and, therefore, the present invention, which requires the use of water alone, cannot be distinguished from Mechanic '475.

Mr. Eldridge and Applicant's representatives disagreed with the Examiner and stated that water alone is not a buffer. Water inherently is not a buffer because it has no buffering capacity. Mr. Eldridge and Applicant's representatives further explained to the Examiner that although water itself is a pH neutral liquid (i.e., has a pH around 7), collagen fibrils are acidic and, when collagen is suspended in water, the pH of the resulting suspension is in the acidic

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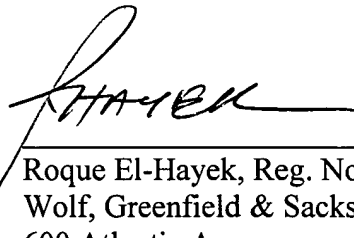
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range. The pH of a collagen suspension in water is acidic because water does not have a buffering capacity.

In view of the presentation made by Mr. Eldridge and Applicant's representatives, the Examiner suggested that Applicant provide evidence that water is not a buffer. Applicant has done so in a response to the Final Office Action, which response was filed on May 26, 2005 .

Respectfully submitted,
Robert D. Torgerson et al., Applicants

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